

INTERNATIONAL

Herald

Tribune

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TODAY'S WEATHER—PARIS: Overcast. Temp. 52-55 (12-13). Thunderstorms possible. Wind 10-15 mph. LONDON: Cloudy. Temp. 48-51 (12-14). Moderate. Yesterday's temp. 48-50 (12-14). CHANNEL: Moderate. ROME: Cloudy. Temp. 57-61 (14-16). NEW YORK: Cloudy. Temp. 38-41 (2-4). Yesterday's temp. 39-45 (4-6). ADDITIONAL WEATHER—PAGE 2

No. 27,718

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PARIS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1972

Austria	8 P.M.
Belgium	12 P.M.
Denmark	2 P.M.
Egypt	1 P.M.
France	12 P.M.
Germany	1:30 P.M.
Great Britain	7:30 P.M.
Iceland	1 P.M.
India	12 P.M.
Iran	2 P.M.
Italy	12 P.M.
Iraq	2 P.M.
Turkey	12 P.M.
U.S. Military	12 P.M.
Yugoslavia	6 P.M.

Established 1837

Would Include N. Vietnam

Thieu Sees Area Summit Solution

By C. L. Sulzberger

SAIGON, Feb. 24 (NYT)—President Nguyen Van Thieu said in an interview yesterday that the Soviet Union had urged North Vietnam to begin a military offensive here to block any efforts by the United States and China to "solve this war" during President Nixon's talks in Peking. However, Mr. Thieu said, South Vietnamese Army attacks and U.S. bombing had prevented the threat from materializing.

He thought Peking was worried that Washington and Peking might find "a basic agreement to restore peace in Indochina" and was determined to prove that the key to any solution lay in Moscow, not in Peking.

Mr. Thieu repudiated all thought of invading North Vietnam should the conflict continue. He expressed willingness to join with that country and eight other Southeast Asian states in a kind of neutral bloc that would renounce foreign bases or alliances in this area.

Looking toward the future, Mr. Thieu thought the Indochina situation must return to that outlined in the 1954 and 1962 Geneva agreements on Vietnam and Laos respectively.

He thought it impossible to envision an eventual reunification of the two Vietnams under existing circumstances, but he firmly refused to consider any thought of invading North Vietnam. "I rule this out," the South Vietnamese president added.

What he would like to see for all Southeast Asia is development of a buffer zone with international guarantees against outside invasion. This zone should include both Vietnam as separate states.

He did not like the word "neutralization" for its status but insisted that once such a regional bloc was created, "Russia would have to give up its doctrine of supporting any people's war."

He continued: "Southeast Asia includes 10 states—North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines. They should arrange a common stand among them."

"These 10 nations—and I include North Vietnam—should dis-

"I do not think neutralization is the correct word to describe our goal. The three superpowers—America, Russia and China—should be neutralized while the weak states in Southeast Asia should be turned into a buffer zone which is not violated by anyone. We do not want to be violated by anyone or to attack anyone."



Nguyen Van Thieu

cuss among themselves their common attitude; and we are perfectly willing to include Hanoi in such meetings.

Buffer Zone Sought

"But I do not think neutralization is the correct word to describe our goal. The three superpowers—America, Russia and China—should be neutralized while the weak states in Southeast Asia should be turned into a buffer zone which is not violated by anyone."

"We do not want to be violated by anyone or to attack anyone. We do not want any foreign bases

here or any alliances in this area."

Speaking English, seemingly at ease and brushing aside as untrue or exaggerated those reports of differences between him and Secretary of State William P. Rogers concerning Mr. Thieu's flexibility on the Paris peace talks, the president contended:

"Nothing came of the so-called offensive they [the enemy] were supposed to be mounting here during President Nixon's visit to Peking. I imagine they will try an all-out offensive later on to exploit political differences in the United States and to press Nixon to yield more in negotiations."

Division Near Kien

He thought there was no doubt that the enemy had hoped to mount a major operation this month to coincide with President Nixon's trip. "They introduced a whole division into South Vietnam, west of the Kontum-Pleiku area," he continued.

They also initiated small guerrilla attacks around the country. However, the main threat west of Kontum-Pleiku was set back by South Vietnamese ground attacks and the United States bombing.

Mr. Thieu predicted another limited offensive offensive effort when Mr. Nixon visits Moscow in May—to demonstrate how strong the Communist position is in the Indochina war. He also forecast a strong offensive late this summer that would seek to influence the U.S. elections against Mr. Nixon. He foresees a final military attempt next year before Hanoi "might be ready for peace."

Must Have a Victory

"What the Communists really want is to defeat Nixon," Mr. Thieu said. "They know it will be very hard to impose their viewpoint if he is re-elected. Therefore they want to smash his Vietnamization program and also try to develop another offensive for a battlefield victory. They must have a victory on the battlefield first if they are to get any great concessions."

"If Nixon is re-elected, I think Hanoi will still try another military offensive in 1973, when the American forces have gone from here. After that, they might be ready for peace. But right now their tactic is fight and talk, talk and fight. Maybe sometime in 1973 they might decide to fade away or to turn their main effort to Laos and Cambodia, seeking a political advantage there."

President Thieu received me in his official office in the center of Saigon. Three helicopters, three tanks, several jeeps and armed soldiers were distributed around the spacious grounds.

Those who have noted the Vietnamese Communist annoyance with President Nixon's current visit to China thought it might have had some connection with today's action. Hanoi has insisted, and reiterated its position today, that the United States must reach an agreement with the Vietnamese in Paris.

The Communists, in turn, accused the United States of trying to sabotage the peace talks and insisted that the meeting be held today. The allies gave their agreement yesterday.

Both Washington and Peking

against trying to reach an understanding on Vietnam over their heads.

Nguyen Van Le, the Hanoi spokesman, said rumors of a meeting between President Nixon and North Vietnamese leaders in China were "without foundation." Today's meeting was the first in two weeks. The United States and Saigon had refused to meet last week in protest against the "intolerable pressure" of a world peace conference that met in nearby Versailles to back the Communist demands for total American military withdrawal by a specific date and the removal of the Saigon administration.

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Terms of Deal Still Unknown

Hijacked Jet Returns to Germany

FRANKFURT, Feb. 24 (UPI).—The West German jumbo Boeing 747 airliner hijacked by Palestinians arrived in Frankfurt tonight after a non-stop flight from Aden.

Aboard the Lufthansa airliner were the 14 crew members who were released last night after being held hostage by the hijackers for nearly two days. Eight of the crew are air hostesses.

Also aboard was senior Foreign Ministry official Karl Mueller and four Lufthansa representatives.

The plane was flown back by a relief crew sent from West Germany. It was hijacked by six

Arabs shortly after leaving New Delhi Monday night.

Mr. Mueller, under-secretary at the Bonn Foreign Ministry who was sent to Aden by Chancellor Willy Brandt to negotiate with the Palestinian hijackers, declined to answer questions at an airport press conference before leaving Aden about the terms of the deal he concluded.

But he expressed his government's warmest thanks to the Aden authorities and gave a special word of praise to Mahmoud Asari, the civil aviation chief there who was the one man the hijackers would talk to.

Mr. Asari had arranged the release of the passengers.

The six hijackers were whisked away from the airport by police immediately after they surrendered the plane last night. They were released after being questioned for several hours. Their whereabouts was not reported.

Mr. Mueller told the press conference, "We hope this is the last hijacking. We hope it is the last time that such a crime is used to achieve a political aim."

There was no word even after the plane's return as to what finally persuaded the Arabs to give themselves up.

It was believed that they had

sought the release of three Jordanians held in West Germany following a shooting incident Feb. 6 in which five Jordanians were machine-gunned to death. Earlier, a West German Justice Ministry source said there were no Arab political prisoners in German federal offices.

Sister Savard, a member of the same Catholic women's order that Sister McAlister belongs to, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, said she received "I would think three . . . not more than four" letters addressed to her from Lewisburg during a 1 1/2-month period at the order's New York City headquarters at 137 West 85th Street in Manhattan.

Earlier today, two FBI agents based in New York City, Matthew J. Cronin and Joseph Eshleman, testified that they participated in surveillance of Sister McAlister and Sister Juges Egan, former administrative head of the religious order, during the summer of 1970 in connection with the FBI's search for their fugitive father, Daniel Berrigan.

Soon after the jumbo jet landed in Aden Tuesday morning, the Arabs issued a statement condemning recent close ties between some Arab countries and West Germany. Iraqi reports said the hijack was in reprisal for financial aid given by Bonn to Israel.

It was opposed only by the militant Northern Ireland MP, Bernadette Devlin, who with shouts of "No, no!" tried several times unsuccessfully to divide the House of Commons.

During the third and final reading in the Commons the Liberal party leader, Jeremy Thorpe, moved an amendment which would have made the bill effective for only one year. He was supported by some Labor backbenchers but the amendment was defeated by 158 votes to 20.

"Certainly they will discuss it," he insisted, "but they will not be able to agree on any solution for Vietnam. It would be unbelievable if they did not discuss it."

According to his analysis: "There is no doubt that Moscow pushed Hanoi to try an offensive now while Nixon is in Peking. Moscow wanted to demonstrate that it is impossible to negotiate over the head of Hanoi."

Peking "is in a difficult position," he continued. "It cannot abandon Vietnam and it is tied up by its own rivalry with Moscow. Nevertheless, both Washington and Peking are seeking a breakthrough."

Mr. Marx's remarks sparked an uproar, with his Christian Democratic colleagues applauding frantically in an attempt to drown out the angry shouts of protest from Mr. Brandt's Social Democratic supporters.

Horst Ehmke, Mr. Brandt's minister for chancellery affairs, rushed to the speaker's stand to tell Mr. Marx that it was ridiculous to pretend any German government could reverse the results of the world war that ended 27 years ago.

The exchange highlighted the second day of a three-day debate in West Berlin to discuss implementation of the East German decision to open the wall over the Easter and Pentecost holidays.

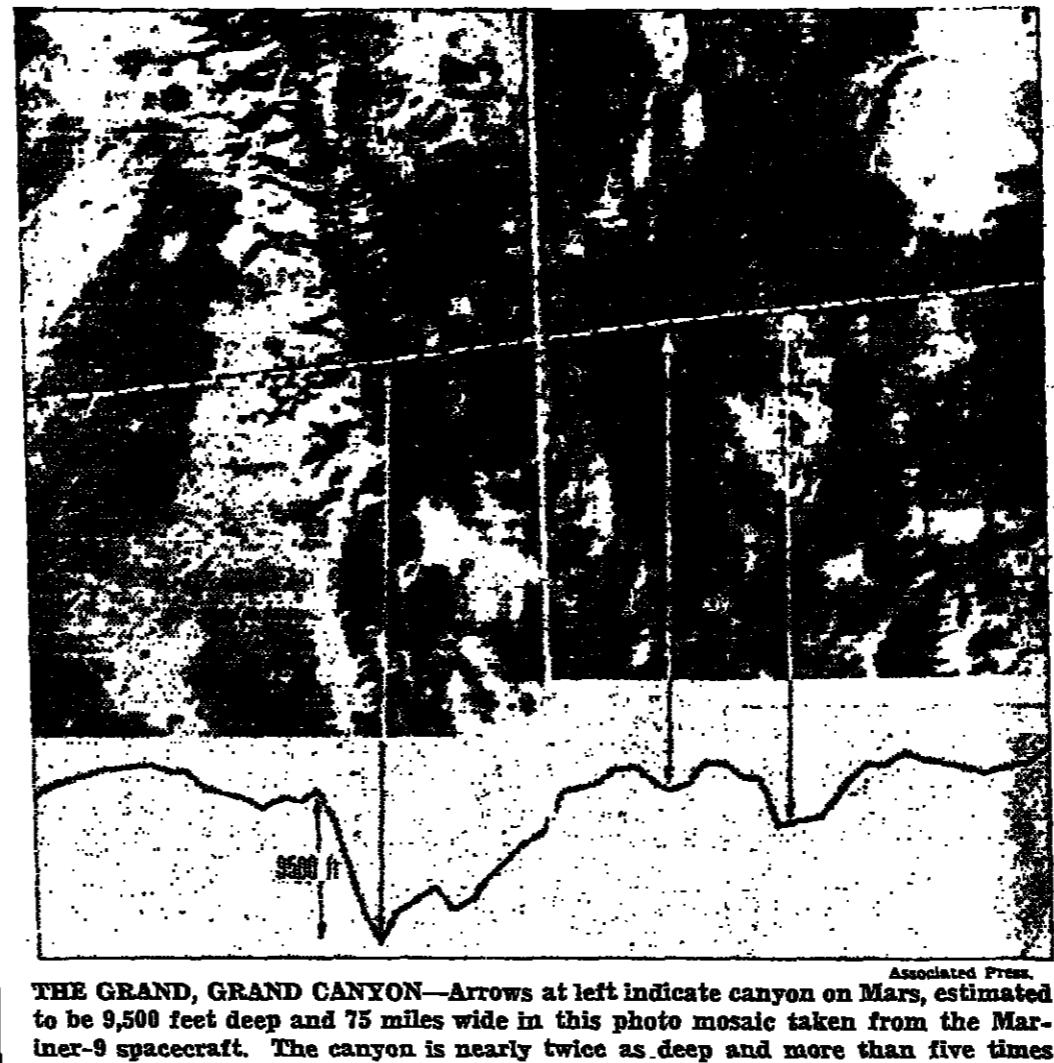
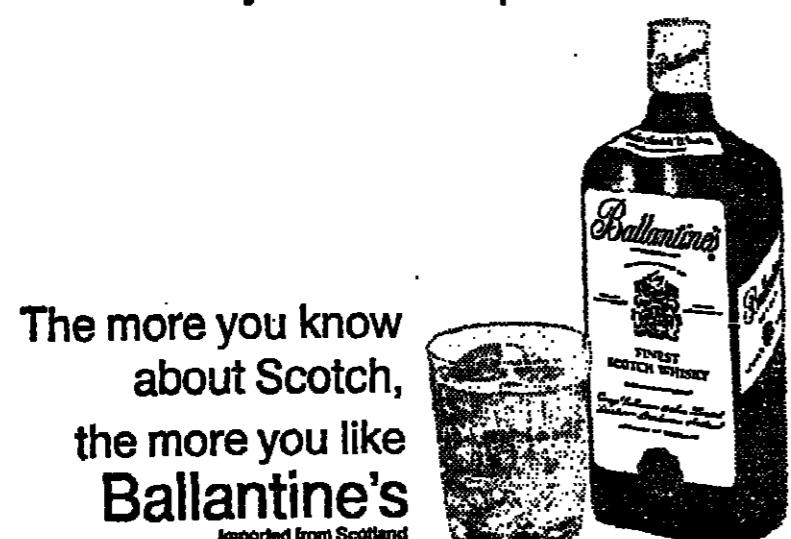
The East Germans announced Tuesday that as a goodwill gesture they would allow West Berliners through the wall during the holiday periods for the first time since 1966.

Four-Vote Majority

Mr. Brandt has an overall majority of four votes in the Bundestag, and was fighting to prevent any desertions by deputies who are refugees from Eastern Europe when the final vote



The more you know about ancient history, the more you like to explore Rome.



Associated Press
THE GRAND, GRAND CANYON—Arrows at left indicate canyon on Mars, estimated to be 5,500 feet deep and 75 miles wide in this photo mosaic taken from the Mariner-9 spacecraft. The canyon is nearly twice as deep and more than five times as wide as earth's Grand Canyon, which measures 5,500 feet deep and 13 miles wide. The arrows at right indicate other significant depressions. The area that is shown is 400 miles wide from left to right and dotted line indicates path of Mariner-9, which shot from altitude of 1,070 miles. The canyon is located near the red planet's equator in its western hemisphere. The north is at the right.

U.K. Enacts Ulster Law

(Continued from Page 1)
his party's full support in getting the measure through Parliament as quickly as possible.

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Thieu Sees Summit Solution For 10 Southeast Asia States

(Continued from Page 1)
more precisely. I have not made a decision on whether I might run for re-election and I don't want the Communists to be able to exploit anything I might say."

Mr. Thieu was clearly concerned with the superpower relationships now developing out of the Nixon trip. He is convinced that President Nixon and his Chinese hosts are talking about the Vietnam situation.

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Israel Rejects Old Borders

(Continued from Page 1)
man said a young Israeli couple died in an Arab guerrilla ambush 25 miles from the Lebanese border late last night.

The guerrillas stopped their car, with steel nails spread across the roadway, and then blasted it head-on with two bazooka anti-tank rockets.

In the west of the province, a similar raid left an electrician's shop in Londonderry's Strand Road a mass of wrecked merchandise. It was the street's third blast in 24 hours. Yesterday a garage and a filling station were blown up.

The town hall at Strabane was extensively damaged after a dozen raiders, some masked, held the staff at gunpoint for 20 minutes while they planted two bombs and splashed gasoline around the building. No one was injured in the resultant blast and fire.

British soldiers today swooped on a canal at the border town of Newry after a tip-off and found armed men placing explosives at lock gates. Troops detained five men after finding two rifles, a pistol and explosive charges.

Later, on the Israeli-held Golan Heights, a number of bazooka rockets and automatic fire were tonight aimed at an Israeli position near Nahal Golan settlement, military sources reported.

There were no casualties. The sources did not say whether fire had been returned.

Lebanese Deaths

BEIRUT, Feb. 24 (UPI).—Lebanon today denied involvement in a bazooka ambush just across the border in which a young Israeli couple was killed.

"There was no infiltration nor were bazookas or rockets fired from Lebanon's territory," an army spokesman declared.

The Soviet Union has been seeking equal status for East Germany with regard to West Germany at the conference.

WARSAW, Feb. 24 (AP).—Cuban leader Fidel Castro will visit Poland "some time this year," Warsaw radio announced last night. It gave no further details.

Castro to Visit Poland

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24 (AP).—An exiled South Vietnamese general who was barred in an attempt to return home after six years arrived in Los Angeles yesterday.

Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi said he had been "treated as an enemy who is feared beyond reason."

The general, sent into exile for backing a Buddhist uprising against the government in 1968, was prevented by armed police from getting off a Jetair when it landed in Saigon yesterday.

Castro holds that this trend

is a clear violation and grave con-

travention of the Arab League charter," the spokesman added.

"If this charter cannot be re-

spected, then it should be an-

nnulled," he said.

General Barred

In South Vietnam

Returns to U.S.

WEATHER

After Predicting Tet Attacks

U.S. Admits It Is Uncertain If Hanoi Plans an Offensive

By Murray Marder

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (UPI).—North Vietnam still has the military capacity to launch several "spectacular" attacks in South Vietnam this season, but its intentions are now obscure, U.S. officials said yesterday.

Nixon administration spokesmen sought to explain their unsuccessful attempts to forecast the timing of what they said for weeks would be a dramatic enemy offensive.

The enemy capability to begin one or more offensives still exists, despite extraordinarily heavy air attacks on enemy positions, the officials said. What is wholly unknown, the officials continued, is Hanoi's current political intentions for the assault.

U.S. officials speculate now that Hanoi's timing will be influenced by President Nixon's talks in Peking, which have aroused great suspicion in North Vietnam about the intentions of its ally, China.

The Pentagon also made public testimony by Navy Secretary John H. Chafee before the Senate Armed Services Committee that revealed a significant strengthening of the Sixth Fleet.

In addition to the previously publicized movement of a helicopter carrier and two warships to the area, Mr. Chafee said the United States was increasing the number of nuclear attack submarines on duty there for covert surveillance and anti-submarine warfare.

Three destroyer escorts specially equipped to operate a new anti-submarine surveillance system have also been sent.

Saigon Says Pace of War Is Slackening

SAIGON, Feb. 24 (AP).—

North Vietnamese and Viet Cong attacks were reported to have slackened yesterday and early today.

The South Vietnamese command reported 13 enemy attacks during the 24-hour period ending at dawn today, the least in 3 1/2 weeks. Since Feb. 11, the attacks have been averaging above 30 a day.

U.S. military sources said that there was no sign that enemy troops poised along South Vietnam's western borders with Laos and Cambodia were withdrawing and that the enemy command was still capable of beginning a major offensive.

Heavy U.S. air strikes continued against the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos, North Vietnam's supply network south. Sources said U.S. planes were averaging between 200 and 300 strikes a day recently against the 200-mile-long network.

Battle in the Delta

The heaviest fighting yesterday centered in the U. Minh Forest deep in the Mekong Delta where two enemy attacks on outposts cost government forces 10 men killed and 14 wounded. Eleven enemy soldiers were reported to have been killed.

Fighting also was reported near the provincial capital of Kien Long about 40 miles east of Saigon.

Two Americans were reportedly killed in action in Indochina last week—the same number as in the previous week—while the number of wounded dropped from 28 to 21, the U.S. command announced.

The South Vietnamese command reported 208 of its men killed and 531 wounded during the week ending Feb. 19. The Saigon command reported that 637 enemy soldiers had been killed, a significant drop from the 1,105 listed in the previous week.

Since 1961, U.S. casualties are put at 45,550 killed in action, 302,651 wounded in action and 10,077 dead from "nonhostile" causes.

The South Vietnamese command reported 14,000 of its men killed and 35,000 wounded during the week ending Feb. 19. The Saigon command reported that 637 enemy soldiers had been killed, a significant drop from the 1,105 listed in the previous week.

The general, sent into exile for breaking the law.

There were no Communists among them, Rude Pravo wrote.

They included expelled members "who have moved from revisionist positions to organizing anti-state activities," non-party people and some "old anti-Socialist elements," the official Libyan news agency said.

In a dispatch from Tripoli, the agency said the spokesman issued the statement to comment on reports that Iraq is about to conclude a "friendship and cooperation" treaty with Russia.

The statement coincided with the presence in Moscow of Maj. Abd al Salam Jalloud, the second man in the Libyan leadership who arrived there yesterday.

The statement did not refer to the "friendship and cooperation" treaty signed by Egypt and the Soviet Union last May. Egypt is a member of the Federation of Arab Republics.

"Libya holds that this trend

would take the Arab nation back to the days of the Baghdad Pact

and the treaties with the Western imperialist countries," the spokesman said.

"Libya holds that this trend is a clear violation and grave con-

travention of the Arab League charter," the spokesman

Terror: Use and Abuse

Ulster—it is its tragedy—has been providing a case history in the use and abuse of terror as a political weapon. Unfortunately, whatever the troubles of Northern Ireland may contribute to revolutionary textbooks, they do not seem to be producing a solution for the divided island. And very similar lessons might have been deduced, at less cost in life, from such apparently distant—in place and circumstance—disorders as those which occurred on American college campuses in the late 1960s.

The technique of terror clearly can be directed at two main objectives. One is the disruption of a society affected, in the hope of evoking a social reformist or revolutionary response. The other is to "radicalize" a situation in which there is only a potential for revolution.

In American universities, both effects were probably sought, but the latter predominated. There would be peaceful demonstrations over some issue—the Vietnam war, the composition of the board of trustees, the tenure of a controversial professor. The radicals would press beyond the generally accepted limits of permissibility by stone-throwing, occupation of college buildings, arson or bombs. This would bring in the police or, as at Kent State, the National Guard. There would be mass arrests, or shootings, and the reaction to this repression usually "radicalized" the bulk of the student body.

There might, however, be other reactions. If terror went a bit too far, it could create a backlash. Or reforms might blunt the edge of the radical thrust, internal dissensions splinter it. For a variety of reasons, the American campus has been a far more

peaceful place in the 1970s than in the previous decade.

The Roman Catholics of Northern Ireland went through the initial phase of peaceful demonstration, for reformist purposes. The Irish Republican Army ("Provisionals" at first; "Officials" later) began bombing and sniping for revolutionary ends. Repression—the internment policy, the return of fire by the British Army and the culminating killings on Bloody Sunday—achieved, to a very large extent, the aim of revolutionizing the Catholic population of Northern Ireland. Terror, coupled with the governmental reaction and the failure to make effective reforms, had radicalized most of Ireland.

Then the IRA—the "Officials," this time—blew up an officers' mess at Aldershot, leaving seven dead: five waitresses, a gardener and a Roman Catholic chaplain. This stupid brutality created its own reaction. It seems to have caused the British Parliament, shaken by Bloody Sunday, to close ranks again; it gave the government in Dublin an opportunity to clamp down on the IRA—which it fears almost as much as does the government in Stormont.

This could be the psychological moment for a real offer of reform to the Roman Catholics of Ulster, or some genuine effort to provide a solution to the whole question of divided Ireland. But what is that to be? Hatred is endemic in Ireland, after centuries of mingled oppression and revolt. Has Aldershot sobered either side? One may hope that something constructive will emerge from the lengthening list of innocent dead. But the hope is extremely frail, while hostile emotions remain tough and strong.



Great Leaps Forward

Penalty of Death

In California, the state will no longer set its citizens an example of contempt for the sanctity of human life by putting to death those it considers worthless. Perhaps it would have been better had the state's legislature made this decision. It was made, instead—and for abundantly good reasons—by the state's Supreme Court. The court concluded that the death penalty was "unnecessary to any legitimate goal of the state" and that it was "impermissibly cruel" under the terms of the clause in the California Constitution forbidding cruel and unusual punishments.

California's strong-stomached governor, Ronald Reagan, greeted the news of the decision by commenting that the court had put itself "above the will of the people." That is, of course, precisely what courts are created to do. Their responsibility is not to popular preferences or prejudices but to fundamental principles of equity and to the rules of a written constitution; and this is equally true of a court of last resort.

It is doubtful, moreover, if Gov. Reagan is at all accurate even in his assessment of the will of the people. As Chief Justice Wright observed for the Supreme Court, public acceptance of the death penalty "cannot be measured by the existence of death penalty statutes or by the fact that some jurisdictions impose death on criminal defendants."

The prisons of California contained, up to the time of the Supreme Court decision, 106

human beings condemned to death and awaiting execution. Can Gov. Reagan imagine the reaction of Californians—and of the rest of the civilized world—if he had ordered all 106 of them to be taken out and executed forthwith? Can he conceive of the response if he invited all those within the state in favor of capital punishment to come and witness so barbaric a slaughter?

The truth is that the penalty of death is now wholly inconsonant with the values of contemporary civilization. It may have had merit or justification 200 years ago when the Constitution of the United States was adopted; and at a time when such penalties as drawing and quartering, breaking on the wheel or burning at the stake were still remembered, execution by hanging or by electrocution or by gas may have seemed comparatively humane, or at any rate not cruel and unusual. But it is the very essence of civilization to advance in values and standards. Today capital punishment in any form must be accounted "cruel and unusual."

It deserves rejection by civilized men, however, for an even more compelling reason. As Chief Justice Wright put it, "It degrades and dehumanizes all who participate in its processes... and is incompatible with the dignity of man and the judicial process." Let us hope it will soon become an anachronism—an outworn barbarism—everywhere in this civilized land.

THE WASHINGTON POST.

Turn to Pollute

Brazil's Planning Minister has been debilitated with a remark that ranks with Commodore Vanderbilt's "The public be damned." If Joso Paulo Velloso was correctly quoted, he observed hopefully that "Brazil can become the importer of pollution." Endorsing a huge woodpulp project which his country would undertake for Japanese paper producers, Mr. Velloso expanded on the theme: "Why not? We have a lot left to pollute. They don't."

Carried away by an economic boom, some Brazilian officials appear to have no more thought for the future than American industrialists had back in the days when a belching chimney was considered a thing of beauty and a joy forever. It was hard for Americans then to see that the joy would last a generation or two rather than forever, but our social short-sightedness at the time

THE NEW YORK TIMES.

International Opinion

As Nixon's China Visit Goes On

China's most urgent priority in the talks between Nixon and Chou En-lai will be to discover how the United States sees the role of Japan in Asia and particularly

hardly justifies a national leader today in demanding a chance for his own country to follow suit.

Yet that seems to be the position of the current Brazilian regime. It has even made the point in the United Nations that no developing country should be asked to slow down its industrial growth now to make up for the earlier environmental sins of other states.

The argument makes a mockery of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, scheduled for Stockholm in June. The point of that gathering is that there is only one such environment, and it affects Brazilians as much as it does Englishmen, Thais or Tanzanians. The Brazilian contention is a little like the righteous claim of a new office-holder to his turn at robbing the public till.

THE NEW YORK TIMES.

In the International Edition

Seventy-Five Years Ago

February 25, 1897

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Senate now seems disposed to turn its attention to Cuban matters. Senator Allen, a Populist, wants American warships sent to Havana at once. Senator Hill calls upon the State Department for information and Senator Morgan wants the government to demand the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Julio Cangul. The latter resolution is the only significant one and appears to have the support of Senator Sherman, who, in a few days, will be President McKinley's Secretary of State.

Fifty Years Ago

February 25, 1922

LONDON—Mr. Winston Churchill announced in the House of Commons yesterday that an arrangement had been made between the British government and the Provisional Government of Southern Ireland regarding claims for criminal injuries and losses during the recent troubles. Each side would pay for damage for which it was responsible and the Irish government has agreed to pay for damage done by their partisans in Glasgow, Liverpool and elsewhere in Great Britain. An agreed commission would adjudicate on the claims.

Rotten Eggs or Sick Chickens?

By C. L. Sulzberger

SAIGON.—There is a widespread habit of blaming almost every symptom of instability in the United States upon the Vietnam war and notable among such symptoms has been rising race tensions, violence among university students and an alarming rise in the use of drugs. But whether this diagnosis is accurate, whether the sick American chicken hatched the rotten Vietnamese egg or vice versa, is questionable.

Gen. Abrams, the U.S. commander here, whose rugged physical exterior hides a sensitive personality, makes the point that "race problems" (among his forces) "are like drug problems in that the men don't learn it here, they bring it with them." He suggests that as his troops return to America from the furnace of this difficult and disengaging conflict: "I don't think these men will add to the burden of the United States when they go home."

These reflections merit additional analysis by comparing the undoubted ailments of United States society with those of other countries which have no facile label like "Vietnam" to attach around their necks, like some putrid Ancient Mariner's albatross, to explain current troubles.

Example of France

France was forcibly ousted from IndoChina in 1954 and found the cost of trying to keep physical hold of Algeria excessive a decade ago. Yet France has had its share of drug problems, racial difficulties with North Africans, corruption and sufficient student rebellion to almost overthrow a regime.

Britain was puzed by dope and unrestrained youth long be-

fore Ulster exploded. West Germany, which hasn't had a colony in more than two generations or a war in more than one, nevertheless experienced enough social stress to produce "Red Rudi" Dutchie. The excessive Dutch youth gangs and often bewildering communal sex habits of the Danes can in no sense be attributed to any abnormal phenomenon like a "Vietnam."

Overimplified diagnosis is too facile for the United States and wholly inaccurate for the rest of the Western world. Vertically and historically speaking an epoch and politically and horizontally speaking a large geographic area is now experiencing a deep-seated and sometimes turbulent questioning of inherited morals and traditions.

The strains and disappointments of the Vietnam experience have undoubtedly tended to further and exaggerate this process as related to the United States but there is no convincing evidence that it caused it. What is happening in the West that could well be in a general state of Spenglerian decline arises from other social, political and economic phenomena.

For example, when Abrams discusses addiction among soldiers here he comments: "There's an awful lot of money in it, in the drug business. That's why we've got it." Marxists would attribute the malady to an inherent and incurable weakness of the capitalist system.

Yet, in one or another degree, similar problems are facing those Communist systems of which we have any extensive knowledge—which is to say, not including China, North Korea and North Vietnam and their unusually closed, secretive societies.

"Vietnam," this far from, distant war, is neither the cause of United States social disorders and moral disintegration nor the origin of its frequent mood of despair. It is only a sordid catalyst that heightens a process already begun.

As a label for everything that ails us it is incorrect; as an excuse it does not truly apply.

The Role of Chairman Mao

By Joseph Kraft

PEKING—Mao Tse-tung really is a living legend. His name draws the sword from the Chinese stone. He is the Great Helmsman by force of more than metaphor.

Those are the dominant impressions midway into President Nixon's China visit. Thanks to Mao, the trip has been transformed in tone. There are now taking place on an almost routine, daily basis events fabulous to contemplate. There even seems to be a chance of fixing in Mao's name, the next generation of Chinese leadership on a policy course not hostile to the United States.

The surest sign of Mao's powerful hand is the behavior of his wife, Chiang Ching. Mrs. Mao emerged in the Cultural Revolution a couple of years ago as a leading member of a radical faction most virulent in its hostility to bourgeois life and middle-class values. Among other things, Mrs. Mao subjected the wife of another Chinese leader to murderous criticism on the grounds that her dress and behavior during a state visit by a foreign ruler were "trivial and in bad taste."

But Tuesday night Mrs. Mao was on hand as official hostess for President and Mrs. Nixon at a ballet performance. She was well turned out in a dark suit, and looks far prettier and younger than her pictures. She chatted amiably with Mr. Nixon. That may not have been "trivial

and in bad taste." But neither was it the revolutionary thing to do. The universal opinion here is that Mrs. Mao did it only because, as one diplomat put it, "she was told to do it by the Old Man."

A wider sign of Mao's role is the change in public attitudes towards the President's trip. Until Mr. Nixon met with Chairman Mao Monday afternoon, his visit received only minimal attention in the press and on the radio. His reception at the airport was distinctly cool. Ordinary Chinese in the streets didn't even notice him. But when Mr. Nixon as the tour of developments in the Soviet Union. Thus it is possible that the younger leaders will take seriously China's pronounced anti-American rhetoric of the past—will, in fact, move their country into a position of abiding and maybe even dangerous hostility towards the United States.

By leaning the other way now, Chairman Mao mortgages the future. He imparts to the notion of getting on with the United States the most weighty endorsement. He starts a thick barrier against future Chinese leaders taking it into their heads to turn toward Moscow in the one combination that could easily jeopardize American security.

Thus Chairman Mao's action has not only shaped President Nixon's trip this week; it has opened a line for the future. It is now possible for the United States and China to develop in time a normal relationship. And that possibility, which no less a figure from the United States could have achieved alone, justifies the trip that has brought Mr. Nixon here to Peking.

Letter From Leningrad

A Stunning Anomaly

By Robert G. Kaiser

LENINGRAD.—Peter the Great built this grand city in a bold swing to give Russia a real European capital, something that could rival the great cities of the continent. By local estimate, he succeeded. Paris is a nocturne, a theater director here announced, the other night, as though there was no doubt about it.

One Parisian who visited the city 123 years ago was not convinced. He was the Marquis de Custine, a remarkable figure who toured Russia in 1859 and wrote on it afterward in volumes reminiscent of De Tocqueville's on America.

"...a Greek city improvised for the Tatars as a theater set—a decor, magnificent though without taste, to serve as the scene of a real and terrible drama—this is what one perceives at first glance in Petersburg," Custine wrote.

The truth lies only in the eye of the beholder, of course. Custine lost no love for Russia, and had a special distaste for the "Czars who built this city as a 'Window on the West.'" The theater director, a proud and talented native son, has different pre-

ferences. On the other side of the canal a larger crowd is looking for rooms to rent—unofficially—from people with extra space (a rare breed).

Near one of the markets where farmers sell their privately-grown produce, several dozen ladies stand on the sidewalk selling knitted caps, socks and mittens—products of their own handicraft. A bright pink ladies' hat from mohair in the shape of a fishbowl costs 15 rubles—18 dollars at the official rate of exchange.

There are fewer cars in Leningrad than in Moscow; by Western standards traffic is light. Public transport is abundant and cheap—and usually crowded. Leningrad is a city of streetcars, many of them driven by women.

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This avenue, like all of central Leningrad, is remarkable to a Moscow resident because it all seems so old, even quaint. The bulky, monotonous modern Soviet architecture has been excluded from downtown Leningrad. Instead of destroying decrepit buildings, the government replaces their insides. One 19th-century building recently collapsed, it is being replaced by a copy of an 18th-century structure.

St. Petersburg was built to a scale of arbitrary grandness. The palaces and public buildings are huge. The private houses, which have been subdivided and redivided must have been the biggest in Europe. The architecture was largely Greek-revival, a new style for Russia.

All of this dwarfed the population (about 400,000) in Custine's day. "I count fewer men than columns in the squares of Petersburg," he wrote. Twenty-five years later, in 1914, Karl Baedeker's guide to Russia reported:

"The streets of St. Petersburg are much less animated than those of other European capitals, though they are a little less dull on Sunday and holidays."

The city is still something of a theater set, but one feels that it's the wrong set for the play that is being performed in the streets and behind the elegant facades.

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It was right, with modern times seems strong. The assiduous preservation of old Petersburg in contemporary Leningrad also appears to be the work of people who want to hold on to something that was never really theirs. "The interesting thing is," a foreigner living here remarked the other day, "that they could have done so much with all that money (spent on preservation) if they had used it to build something new."

Luckily for travelers, the money wasn't spent on something new.

Thanks to the heirs of Lenin's revolution against capitalist, imperialist Russia, the respondent palaces, old canals and grand avenues remain intact.

Letters

Censorship

I read Professor Dworkin's piece "Censorship by Newsman" (CET, Feb. 15) with decided mixed emotions. It appears he reveals excessive concern over government appeals for responsible self-restraint on the part of the media and too little concern for the power of the same media to "embarrass or even cripple national policy," to use his own words. This is, after all, the atomic age.

Newsman may be, as he suggests, "trustees for the rest of us," but one must wonder whether they should be appealed for actions for which any other citizen would be subject to serious criminal action for doing. Then, too, can it not be fairly said that government representatives are, for better or for worse, also trustees for the rest of us. Prof. Dworkin seems to imply that newsmen are a nobler class than our duly elected government officials. It may be, but where's the proof?

Government officials will at times unquestionably abuse secrecy for narrow selfish ends and an alert press may be the only defense we have. But it is surely not to advocate censorship to suggest that in our megaton-bomb world there may be con-

fidential government business regarding matters "subject to political debate" which, in the interest of all of us, must remain confidential.

20-Year Pact For Romania And Hungary

Friendship and Aid Pledge Ends Quarrel

VIENNA, Feb. 24 (UPI)—Hungary and Romania signed a 20-year friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance pact today to patch up the quarrel between the two neighboring nations.

The pact was signed by the premiers of the two countries—János Pock, of Hungary, and Ion Gheorghe Mătăru, of Romania—in Bucharest, the Hungarian news agency, MTI, said.

The pact signing was the climax of a visit of Hungarian Communist party leader János Kádár to Bucharest to meet his Romanian colleague, Nicolae Ceausescu.

It was the first bilateral meeting of the two leaders since last autumn, when the Hungarian Communist party openly criticized Romania's independent foreign policy and was told by Romania to mind its own business.

Friendship Relations.

The contracting parties in accord with the principles of socialist internationalism, sovereignty and independence, equal rights and non-interference in domestic affairs, will strengthen the fraternal relations and manifold cooperation between the two states," the 10-article treaty said.

Both countries pledged "to grant without delay and with all means available manifold assistance, including military assistance, should a contracting party suffer an armed attack from another state or group of states," the pact said.

The announcement of Mr. Kádár's "official friendly visit" was made unexpectedly last week following a trip to Moscow where he won Soviet approval to heal Hungary's breach with Romania. The two nations had quarreled at a time of increasing Soviet-American pressure on Romania. That pressure has since died down following a stringent campaign by Mr. Ceausescu to tighten ideological control at home.



Associated Press

MEN AT WORK—Member of coal mine maintenance staff examining pit-props on roadway leading to high-production coal face in the Bolsover mine Wednesday. These men did not go down in the pits during the English miners' strike and the roadway shrank considerably from its normal size, with the space diminishing between the roof and the floor, thus restricting the air supply. The pipe in the picture was put in to bring air in to the men while they worked.

Power Crisis in U.K. Boosts Jobless Total to 1.6 Million

LONDON, Feb. 24 (AP)—Britain's power crisis boosted the nation's official number of jobless to 1,611,924, the Department of Employment said today.

It was the highest number of people out of work in this country since 1947, when another fuel shortage temporarily inflated the monthly figures.

But those wholly unemployed—the hard core of the jobless—were slightly fewer this month. There were 969,761 completely

without work, 2,626 less than in January.

The monthly count was taken on Feb. 14, the first day of mass layoffs in industry, because of electrical power shortages caused by the nationwide miners' strike.

The power cuts—which plunged large sectors of industry into half-time working on a three-day week—sent the total unemployed up to 6.3 percent of the working population in Scotland, England and Wales. Last month it was 4.2 percent.

Prime Minister Edward Heath's Conservative government, under strong attack over the number of jobless—the figures went above the million mark last month for the first time in 25 years—could take some comfort from today's statistics.

It was the first time since the summer of last year that there had been a flattening out in the wholly unemployed tables. This time last year the trend was rising sharply.

Congress Panel Deadlocked On Funding Europe Radios

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (AP)—A joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives failed to break the eight-month deadlock over government financing for two radio stations broadcasting to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union—Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

Rep. Dante B. Fascell, D., Md., issued a statement yesterday saying Senate conferees refused to accept his compromise for financing the two stations through June 30, 1973, and also for setting up a presidential commission to study and recommend a permanent financing method.

Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, earlier had called the stations "relics of the cold war." He said he thought House members of the joint committee might accept a Senate bill to half government financing as of June 30.

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The stations have been operating since 1950. Advocates say they break the monopoly of the U.S. government.

Israeli Conductor Taube Is Dead

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24 (AP)—The dean of Israel's orchestra conductors, Michael Taube, 83, died at his home here Tuesday, it was announced today.

Born in Poland and trained as a cellist, Mr. Taube settled here in 1935 and was the first local conductor of the Palestine Orchestra. The orchestra later developed into the Israel Philharmonic, led by Toscanini.

American violinist Isaac Stern, soloing with the Philharmonic in Haifa, paid tribute to Mr. Taube at a performance Tuesday night, a few hours after the retired conductor's death, calling him a founder of Israeli music.

Once an assistant conductor under Bruno Walter, Mr. Taube began conducting in Germany in 1915 and formed a Jewish orchestra there before Hitler's rise to power.

Kreisky of Austria Sees Heath, Wilson

LONDON, Feb. 24 (UPI)—Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky conferred today with Prime Minister Edward Heath of Britain on Austria's relations with an enlarged European Economic Community after Britain's entry into the Common Market.

Mr. Kreisky also talked today with Labor party leader Harold Wilson.

Rome Drug Trial Sentences Clementi, Woman to 2 Years

ROME, Feb. 24 (Reuters)—French film actor Pierre Clementi and his Italian girl friend were each sentenced to two years in prison by a Rome court tonight for possession of drugs.

Clementi's lawyers said he would file an appeal within the next three days as prescribed by law.

The defendants were also fined 200,000 lire each (about \$20) and were ordered to pay the costs of the trial.

Clementi and 38-year-old Anna Maria Louricella, were arrested last July 24 and have been in jail for seven months.

Prosecutor Pietro Colombo said he had asked for a small sentence because of extenuating circumstances, mainly because only small quantities of drugs were found in the couple's possession.

GM Sued for Billion Dollars For Defective Engine Mounts

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24 (Reuters)—Car owners today sued General Motors for \$1 billion, hoping to force the firm to fit new engine mountings on nearly 6,700,000 Chevrolets.

The suit, described by lawyers as the biggest of its kind in U.S. legal history, was filed by three women Chevrolet owners. They charged General Motors with breach of warranty, fraud and misrepresentation in the sale of Chevrolet cars produced between 1965 and 1968.

General Motors, in the largest vehicle recall operation in automobile history, has already started contacting owners of Chevrolet cars and trucks made in the four-year period. They are being urged to return them to dealers for installation of restraining straps in case the engine mountings collapse.

The suit claimed the company was patching up the defect by fitting a strap instead of replacing the engine mountings.

Pope Attends Tisserant Rites

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 24 (AP)—In a gesture believed to be unprecedented in modern times, Pope Paul VI today presided over the funeral of his traveling companion, Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, French-born dean of the Sacred College.

The Pope interrupted his Lenten spiritual retreat to attend the funeral services in St. Peter's Basilica, breaking Vatican protocol. Pope Paul had directed that the body of the 87-year-old cardinal, who died Monday, should lie in state in the basilica, an honor befitting a Pope.

Some 2,000 people, including 32 cardinals, the diplomatic corps to the Vatican and officials of the French government and the French Academy, were present.

IN APPRECIATION
American Legion Post No. 1, Park, expresses its appreciation to all friends who attended the funeral yesterday of its member, Edward Elmer Myers.

Mrs. Klarsfeld Flies to Bolivia

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 24 (Reuters)—Beate Klarsfeld flew today to La Paz, Bolivia, with a woman she hopes can identify Klaus Altmann as convicted war criminal Klaus Barbie.

With her was Polish-born Ita Kalanbacher, 61, who says she can identify Barbie, the Gestapo chief in Lyons during World War II.

Barbie, who is in absentia, received a postwar French court's death sentence for having tortured and executed hundreds of French resistance fighters, was also responsible for the extermination of most of Mrs. Kalanbacher's family, in 1942. Mrs. Klarsfeld was issued a Bolivian visa today after being barred from entry yesterday.

Crew of Apollo-16 Will Study Volcanic Events on the Moon

By Thomas O'Toole

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (UPI)—The goal of April's Apollo-16 mission to the moon is for astronauts John W. Young and Charles M. Duke to gather debris from what scientists believe to be two totally different volcanic events on the moon.

"Our prime efforts the first two times we're out on the lunar surface will be to collect samples of the Cayley and Descartes formations," Apollo-16 astronaut Duke told a press briefing Tuesday at NASA headquarters. "We'll be covering quite a lot of ground over these two rock formations in the hopes that we'll come up with what we're looking for."

What Comdr. Young and Mr. Duke will be looking for are samples from two volcanic events that probably took place four billion years ago, as much as 200 million years apart from each other.

The first time the astronauts move out onto the moon in their lunar rover, they'll move westward through the Cayley Plains, which is a flat valley that scientists believe was formed by lava that flowed out from sub-lunar volcanoes four billion years ago.

John and I talked it over," Mr. Duke said. "And we decided there was no place we could sleep after landing on the moon."

Ancient Highlands

"These lava flows cover many of the ancient highlands of the moon and literally make up 7 to 9 percent of the front side of the lunar surface," Mr. Duke said. "And they have not been sampled before by any of the Apollo astronaut crews."

When Comdr. Young and Mr. Duke get out during their second day on the moon, they will move south toward a 5,000-foot-high mountain named Stone Mountain, which is part of the so-called Descartes Formation that scientists believe was formed as much as 200 million years after the Cayley Formation.

Although the Descartes Formation is volcanic, it is believed to possess a different chemistry than the Cayley Formation (named for a 19th-century British mathematician). It is mountainous where Cayley is flat, and it has a lighter color, suggesting it was formed by a lava rich in silicates.

"We'd like to find out what made the difference," said Dr. Paul W. Gast, director of planetary and earth sciences at Houston's Manned Spacecraft Center. "Why did one volcanic event form a lava fill and why did the other form a series of mountains?"

To hear Mr. Duke tell it, the most exciting part of his and Comdr. Young's traverse over the lunar surface will come on their third excursion over the Descartes landing site.

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Turkey Asks Death for 13

ANKARA, Feb. 24 (AP)—A prosecutor asked for 13 death sentences today in a martial law trial of 230 leftists.

The defendants are members of the "Revolutionary Youth Organization," blamed for much of the university campus violence and urban terrorism that disrupted Turkey until martial law was proclaimed last April.

The prosecutor asked sentences of from six months to 15 years imprisonment for 217 defendants.

Japanese Train Record

TOKYO, Feb. 24 (AP)—A newly-built streamlined electric train reached a record 272 kilometers per hour in a test yesterday, the Japan National Railways reported. The Japanese railroads' previous record was 256 kilometers.

Prince Charles Isn't a Twerp, Apology Says

LONDON, Feb. 24 (Reuters).

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 24 (NYT)—William Hamilton, anti-royalist member of Parliament, today apologized for calling Prince Charles a twerp in several dictionairies.

Mr. Hamilton, in a letter to a newspaper, said the dictionary meanings of the word—which vary from ear to ear—did not fit the prince.

He said: "I therefore take this opportunity of publicly and unreservedly apologizing for so describing the prince in the House of Commons."

He added that although he has never met the heir to the British throne, he believed him to be a sensible, contented, pleasant young man.

And then, in the style typical of his anti-royal feelings, the Scots Labor MP added: "Who wouldn't be contented and pleasant with a guaranteed untaxed annual income of £105,000 a year, which is likely to be doubled or even quadrupled automatically, within the next five years?"

Pakistan Asks India to Explain Its Readiness to Talk Peace

By Malcolm W. Browne

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 24 (NYT)—Pakistan today asked for clarification of public statements by India that the latter was ready for unconditional peace talks, saying that the Indian offer seemed to have been made in good faith.

An Indian official in New York and D.P. Dhar, an Indian Foreign Ministry official in Paris, were quoted as saying last week that their country would require no preconditions to immediate talks with Pakistan aimed at resolving the disputes remaining from their December war.

Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said earlier this week that he considered reports of the Indian offer "a smokescreen piece of news" and reiterated his readiness to meet with the Indians.

The plane was now scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

The Indians held 9,000 Pakistani troops, militia and police, while Pakistan held about 600 Indian troops.

Philippines Recognition

MANILA, Feb. 24 (AP)—The Philippines today formally recognized Bangladesh as an independent sovereign state.

President Ferdinand E. Marcos also formally invited Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to visit the Philippines "anytime that it is convenient for him."

U.K. Tells Malta It Is Willing to Resume Talks

LONDON, Feb. 24 (AP)—The British government said today it was willing to resume negotiations with Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff on the future of his island as a military base.

Mr. Mintoff had said this week that he would comment—presumably favorably—on the reported Indian offer as soon as President Nixon completed his trip to China.

But the high government official said today that in light of the Indian note there would be no comment until formal clarification had been received.

"It looks as though the Indian public offers were just propaganda," the official said. "We think they will continue to insist on our agreement to their territorial demands before they will discuss the thing foremost in the minds of all Pakistanis—the reparation of our men they held as prisoners of war."

Government officials seemed

Russian Soldier Defects

MUNICH, Feb. 24 (UPI)—An 18-year-old Soviet soldier stationed in East Germany today fled across the demarc

PARIS MOVIES

Mike Nichols' Morality Play

By Thomas Quinn Curtiss
PARIS, Feb. 24 (UPI).—"Carnal Knowledge," written by Jules Feiffer and directed by Mike Nichols, is one of the more controversial films to come out of the United States recently. It has enjoyed sensational success there and in England with its graphic exposé of American sexual behavior.

It is now in Paris at the Gaumont Champs-Elysées, the Dragon and the Quarter-Latin (in English). Honest, earnest and forthright, the film may seem a trifle naive and provincial on the Continent.

"Carnal Knowledge" takes a pair of typical, middle-class Americans from their college days to the brink of 40. Jonathan (admirably played by Jack Nicholson) is seen at the start as a campus Don Juan who steals his roommate's girl. The roommate, Sam (convincingly impersonated by Arthur Garfunkel) down to the last ineffectual gesture) is a more serious youth who conducts his courtships clumsily. Later, established as a doctor in New York, he appears to have settled into a contented marriage, while his friend is still a sophomore skirt-chaser. But at the end, Jonathan and family man find themselves in a like state of dissatisfaction.

The psychoanalytical aspects of the film are of the homemade American brand. Certainly many Europeans must have had experiences similar to those depicted.

Paris Concerts

The final concerts of the season in the Concerts de Midi series, at 12:30 p.m. Fridays at the Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie, 3 Rue Michelet, Paris, will present the Duo Fontanarosa on March 3, with piano-violin sonatas by Martinu, Kodaly and Glazier, and on March 10, a program of Oriental music and instruments presented by the Centre d'Etudes de Musique Orientale.

ed here, but their attitudes toward them would differ just as that of a European dramatist's approach would differ from Feiffer's. Feiffer, a celebrated cartoonist, has done some cartooning of his characters and of the often absurd situations into which they are plunged, the thwarted attempt at partner swapping, for example, an extremely clever scene. The incidents are quick, the dialogue is lively and the caricatures are droll. But the conclusion is as solemn as that of a Methodist drama. In a sense, "Carnal Knowledge" is a morality play, a warning against the snarls of the flesh.

Nichols's brilliant directorial technique lends the film an air of improvisation. He uses interviews with the dramatis personae in the Godard manner. All the players are persuasive under Nichols's guidance: Nicholson and Garfunkel as the principals; Candice Bergen as the abandoned collegian who leads a double love life; Ann-Margret as a voluptuous pushover who would like to get married; Cynthia O'Neal as a chic, booby wife; and Rita Moreno as a sad-faced prostitute.

Don Siegel's latest, "Dirty Harry" (at the Embassy in English) has Clint Eastwood as a San Francisco police detective hunting down a local murderous kidnapper. The scenario, taut with action and chases, is based on the crimes of the Zodiac killer, who is still at large. Siegel has staged this melodrama with the necessary suspense, providing, too, some handsome color photography of San Francisco.

An increasing number of movie stars are trying their hand at directing. Recently there have been films both by and with Clint Eastwood and Jacques Brel. Now it is Peter Fonda's turn. Fonda's first directorial essay, "The Hired Hand" (at the Résyles Cinéma in English) is a lugubrious Western in which an in-

curious wanderer deserts his wife, goes back to her and, then, spurred by conscience, leaves her again to rescue a friend being held for ransom. The manipulation of the loosely strung script is excessively slow and the characterizations almost invisibly dim, while the sustained gumminess of the narration grows monotonous.

Arthur Garfunkel
... "Carnal Knowledge"

to be Brecht, Alito is determined. His film, save for some pleasing photography of the countryside, becomes intolerably tiresome.

Still, Verdi had a special affection for the opera. He revised it for Milan in 1850-51 in a production which, with Boito as Adorno, brought together the future Ilbreast, Iago and Othello of "Otello."

It history since then suggests that the success of the Milan production may have owed more to Mauro and Tamagno than to Verdi's and Boito's revision, and particularly to Mauro, who was also to be Verdi's first Falstaff. It has flourished only when an opera house could field such a cast as that of the Met revival in 1939, with Tibbett, Caniglia, and not distinctive enough at that.

Still, Verdi had a special affection for the opera. He revised it for Milan in 1850-51 in a production which, with Boito as Adorno, brought together the future Ilbreast, Iago and Othello of "Otello."

Probably nobody is. It takes a strong cast to set up and sustain the situations in which the greatest of those who would mine it. And in Great Britain at the moment, as most of us are reminded two or three times a day when the lights go out, they're not even mining coal.

Martinelli, Pinza and the young Leonard Warren.

Opera in London

'Simon Boccanegra' No Gold Mine in Revival

By Henry Pleasants

LONDON, Feb. 24 (UPI).—The Covent Garden revival of "Simon Boccanegra" demonstrates once again that this is one of those operas that tend to offer more in prospect than in production—unless there is an exceptional cast to give it a vitality missing, or otherwise lying dormant, in the score.

Verdi, when he wrote it in 1856, was clearly looking ahead to the kind of integration of music and drama he ultimately achieved in "Aida," "Otello" and "Falstaff." He might even have been up to it in 1856, but the Ilbreast wasn't. It is based on a play by Gutierrez, as is "Il Trovatore," and is, if anything, even murkier. The famous set pieces of "Il Trovatore" render the listener indifferent to confusion as to who is doing what to whom and why. "Simon Boccanegra" doesn't have the set pieces—or not enough of them,

Carlo Cossutta, Delme Brynjones, Elizabeth Vaughan and Ruggero Raimondi, and with Aldo Ceccato conducting, is hardly that strong. Last night's performance was further troubled by the indisposition of Cossutta, who had to give way to Francesco Mauro after the first act.

There were fine moments toward the end when Raimondi, also making a Covent Garden debut, and who had, until then, done some pretty lugubrious singing joined with Wihell to raise the Boccanegra-Fiasco reconciliation scene to the kind of musical theater that operas, at its best, is all about.

That's how it is with "Simon Boccanegra." The golden ore is there, but it eludes all but the very greatest of those who would mine it. And in Great Britain at the moment, as most of us are reminded two or three times a day when the lights go out, they're not even mining coal.

the window. I think of it as the Rat Shop, but its formal name is the "Destructeur des Animaux Nuisibles." In the window are displayed like hunt trophies the dangling carcasses of rats and their close relatives, plus an assortment of traps and poisons, such as Les Graines Diaboliques.

Desolation

Turning away quickly, my eye was caught by a new store, diagonally opposite, with a neon sign that said the Sprint Press. This, I discovered, meant not high-speed printing but high-speed pressing. The area around the Métro exit, Place St. Opportune, forms a picture of the present state of the Halles quarter in microcosm: desolation and decay, shuttered produce stores and empty houses, brightened at intervals with swinging boutiques, antique shops, and several new pub-like bars and restaurants.

Taking shelter from the rain under the arch on Rue de la Ferme, I noticed a new brasserie and went over to scan the menu. The place looked bright and clean. There was a 15-franc prix fixe and an 8-franc plat du jour—andouillette au saucisson. As I was making a note of this, a woman came charging out and said, "What are you doing?" I told her and she went back in, after giving me a piercing look that said, "A likely story!"

Slipping around the corner, I noticed a clean, well-lighted place that had apparently defied the wrecker and survived the upheaval: the sign said Beurre. Oeufs et Fromages. Inside there was office equipment and no indication of dairy products. A plaque on the wall solved this small mystery: It said "S.A. Française des Appareils Automatiques."

Consoling View

Nearby, facing Rue Berger, a 6-foot-high wooden fence shields the enormous hole where those controversial cast-iron pavilions were uprooted after an ineffectual campaign to save them on aesthetic grounds. Over to the left, on the far side of the fence, looking somewhat less misplaced now, rises the ancient bulk of St. Gouastache. Leading down from the church—if this is any consolation to those who mourn the dismantling of the old Paris—is now a clear vista that could form the background of a Utrillo or perhaps a Foujita: a long row of aged buildings in faded tints of gray, brown and other, a striking picture even on a dark, raw afternoon.

On the other side of St. Eustache there is a retail market. Halles D'Orsay, with a new facade. Down the street from it the restaurant Au Chien Qui Fume is still operating gamely. Here and there one comes across an old-fashioned bar, such as the Maison Millet on Rue St. Opportune, with the authentically mildewed look you'd expect to find in such surroundings. But everywhere there are signs—Building for Sale, Store for Rent—of a neighborhood in transition. At the corner of Rue des Halles, a crew was loading a moving van. Bit by bit, the old Les Halles is being hauled away.

But it is not quite out of business. The survivors and the newcomers together—the Sex Shop, the Rat Shop, and St. Eustache—are still dealing in such basic commodities as Sin, Death, and Salvation.

IRVING MARBER

Paris Marketplace—Sin, Death and Salvation

PARIS (UPI)—It was a ghoulish day—dark, cold and rainy—that looked just about right for viewing the remains of an old acquaintance. One that only yesterday, it seemed, was alive and kicking.

Kicking, that is, about the decline in business. My visit was to Les Halles, and it's pleasing to report that, in spots, it is still alive after a fiasco. Some of these areas of marginal vitality are old establishments that have hung on after the death-dealing bulldozers moved in last summer. Others are new enterprises that have taken advantage of the empty spaces.

Among the latter is the Sex Shop, just off Chatelet. Facing the door is a life-sized color photograph of an astoundingly developed girl with a pink towel around her hips. In the window, among other items, are plastic vials of Soma Plus (35 francs)—"Pépites Fabriquées," Retards et Désordres"; boxes of Extract de Gingembre (21 francs) and a number of books with such titles as "Les Débauchés de Laurette," "Le Collège du Vice," "Satan Mon Amant," and "Les Perversions de Cathé." "Le Collège du Vice," "Satan Mon Amant," and "Les Perversions de Cathé."

Across the street from the Sex Shop, next to one of the Chatelet Métro exits, is an establishment that has always made me of I remember, in time when leaving the Métro close my eyes as I pass it. But now, steeling myself, I crossed the street and looked in

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Two React to Dollar Inflows

Germany Cuts Key Lending Rates; Bonn to Act on Firms' Foreign Debt

From wire dispatches
FRANKFURT, Feb. 24.—In a move to narrow the gap between domestic and Eurodollar interest rates and discourage the inflow of unwanted dollars, West Germany today slashed its key lending rates by 1 percentage point.

Bundesbank president Karl Klaeser said the effective target for the central bank's discount rate—the interest on loans to banks—will drop to 3 percent. The Lombard rate—interest on loans made by securities—was cut to 4 percent.

The move had been expected as a measure to relieve the pressure on the dollar, which has been hovering near its new floor of 3.15 deutsche marks.

The Economics Ministry headed by Karl Schiller had been urging a rate cut to reduce the supply of euros, to bolster the dollar, and also boost the economy. But Bundesbank officials had made clear they preferred imposing a new law—the so-called cash deposit law—forcing resident companies to deposit a part of their foreign borrowings with the central bank at no interest.

With today's interest rate cut, Johann Baptist Schoellnser, undersecretary of state in the Economics and Finance Ministry, reported that Mr. Schiller had pledged to seek cabinet approval for the application of the cash deposit law as soon as possible.

The central bank also decided that minimum reserve requirements on non-resident accounts should be raised to 40 from 20 percent effective March 1. It also reduced by 10 percent, or about 2.3 billion DM, the amount of money banks can borrow from the central bank as of March 1.

Mr. Klaeser stressed that the measures are intended to lend the monetary decisions arrived at in Washington on Dec. 18.

The inflow of dollars—mostly through corporations borrowing Eurodollars at much cheaper rates than they could borrow marks here—has depressed the rate on the foreign exchange market (raising questions about whether the new rate can be sustained), and conversely pushed the mark near its new ceiling, thus raising the cost of German goods on export markets.

Not only is the Bundesbank al-

U.S. Fiscal Policy Called 'Irresponsible'

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (Reuters)—Former Federal Reserve Board chairman William McChesney Martin said today the administration's fiscal policy "borders on the irresponsible."

Addressing the Conference Board here, Mr. Martin said of the Nixon economic program: "We have engaged in fiscal stimulus which is so far in excess of any reasonable requirement that it borders on the irresponsible."

He said he seriously questioned the concept of a full employment budget, adding "we cannot spend ourselves rich."

Unless there is a limitation on spending, he said, "it is hard to see how anyone can be confident that the country is not heading for another inflationary spiral."

Germany Reports Trade Surplus

WIENSHALDE, West Germany, Feb. 24 (AP-DJ)—West Germany had a trade surplus of 1.07 billion deutsche marks in January, down from 1.87 billion DM in December but up from 827 million DM in January, 1971, the Federal Statistics Office reported today.

The surplus resulted in a preliminary current accounts deficit of 300 million DM in January, unchanged from January, 1971.

Exports totalled 10.28 billion DM in January, up from 9.58 billion in the like 1971 month, while imports amounted to 9.28 billion DM, up from 8.7 billion in January, 1971.

Japan Reimposes Exchange Control

TOKYO, Feb. 24 (AP-DJ)—The government has reimposed exchange controls forbidding advance payments for exports effective tomorrow, the Bank of Japan said today.

Shiro Inoue, director of the bank, said the move was taken with reluctance. But with the yen near its ceiling against the dollar and rising nearly every day, and with dollars continuing to flow into the country, this step was necessary, he said.

He said the bank has had to buy "a sizable amount" of dollars in the Tokyo market during the past few days in order to keep the yen from exceeding its ceiling of 301.07 to the dollar. He declined to estimate the amount purchased.

Trading Volume Swells

Dollar volume in the Tokyo market swelled today to \$140 million for delivery tomorrow and Saturday from \$88 million yesterday. Tuesday's volume was \$85 million and \$4 million were traded on Monday.

The advance payment restrictions are the same as those in effect from September up to the December monetary settlement. They prohibit conversion of advance receipts of export bills valued at more than \$10,000 without permission of the Finance Ministry.

The Bank of Japan and Finance Ministry have also officially tightened controls on branches of foreign banks operating here, placing them on the same footing as domestic banks regarding the ability to bring foreign currency into Japan.

Dollar Rate		
Feb. 24, '72	Today	Previous
Ster. 18 per £1—	2.0087	2.0084
Belgian franc—	43.71-74	42.75-78
Danish mark—	3.1725-32	3.1745-49
Danish krona—	8.9570-80	8.9565-75
Deutsche mark—	27.05-15	27.05-15
Fr. 57. Fr. 77—	8.055	8.075-95
Guilder—	3.1717-27	3.1722-23
Israeli pound—	4.20	4.20
Lira—	585.80-587.40	587.50-58
Peseta—	65.515	65.505
Schilling—	23.10-12	23.11-13
Sw. krona—	4.7585-85	4.7585-85
Swiss franc—	3.8530-30	3.8570-75
Yen—	302.15	302.50

FINANCIAL NEWS AND NOTES

£120 Million Bid for Debenhams

United Drapery Stores (UDS), of Britain, has launched a £120 million takeover bid for one of the country's largest retail stores group Debenhams. UDS is offering a share exchange plus convertible loan stock. UDS says the loan stock would be convertible into its ordinary shares in 1976-1980 on the basis of 180 pence (equivalent of the stock into one ordinary UDS share). It adds that it owns 235,000 ordinary Debenhams shares and also intends to make an offer for Debenhams preference capital. Debenhams directors later rejected the offer.

Kloeckner to Reduce Dividend

Kloeckner-Werke says its sharply lower profit in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30 has forced it to propose a 6 percent dividend, down from 12 percent paid the previous year. A company statement stresses that the amount of 20.3 million deutsche marks needed for the dividend payment was not earned through regular business but resulted from "extraordinary influences." Kloeckner declines to identify the "influences" and has not reported actual profit.

Rockwell to Buy BLMC Unit

North American Rockwell says it has reached an agreement in principle to buy Maudslay Motor Co. from British Leyland Motor Corp. (BLMC) for more than \$2.5 million in cash. Rockwell says the acquisition will mark its entry into the truck and bus-drive axle business in Europe.

Pfizer to Acquire Howmedica

Pfizer says it has reached an agreement in principle to acquire Howmedica for 0.925 share of Pfizer common stock for each Howmedica share, or about three million Pfizer shares. The

accord is subject to the negotiation of a formal agreement. Howmedica manufactures and distributes dental, orthopedic and specialty hospital products.

Oil Found in Egypt's Western Desert

The discovery of a new "encouraging" oilfield in the Western Desert is reported by Egyptian and U.S. oilmen. Preliminary tests show the new field, "el-Rakka," contains at least four oil-bearing strata of high-quality crude, the Middle East News Agency, which carried the report, says. Tests at one layer yielded 3,000 barrels daily, the agency adds. The discovery was made by Anoco of Egypt, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Indiana. The new field is about 15 miles from the El Alamein field.

Dunlop Tire Cuts Puncture Danger

Dunlop reports it has developed a new tire which could mean the end of blow-out and puncture dangers for motorists. The tire is designed to allow a motorist to continue a journey for up to 100 miles at a speed of up to 50 miles per hour in the event of one or more tires being punctured. It will almost eliminate the effects of sudden deflation at speed, and minimize the event of punctures in normal driving. Dunlop says. The tire should go on sale in about 18 months.

Montedison Extending Food Sector

Montecatini Edison says it intends to set up a food conglomerate making the food sector its fourth main area of operation after chemicals, artificial fibers and stores. Noting that it already fully owns the Pavesi and Epea food companies, Montedison says it is acquiring full ownership of four other companies—Bellentani, Bertolli, Cora and De Rica—controlled by its affiliate Sade Finanziaria.

Quarterly Review...

Convertibility and the International Role of the Dollar

by Edward M. Bernstein

A copy of this report is available on request.

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Massive Project in Canada

Consortium Gets Go-Ahead For Synthetic Oil Scheme

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (AP-DJ).

The government has reimposed exchange controls forbidding advance payments for exports effective tomorrow, the Bank of Japan said today.

Shiro Inoue, director of the

bank, said the move was taken with reluctance. But with the yen near its ceiling against the dollar and rising nearly every day, and with dollars continuing to flow into the country, this step was necessary, he said.

He said the bank has had to buy "a sizable amount" of dollars in the Tokyo market during the past few days in order to keep the yen from exceeding its ceiling of 301.07 to the dollar. He declined to estimate the amount purchased.

Frank K. Spraggins, president of Syncrude Canada Ltd., said the group will immediately make a final assessment of the project's economic viability. Industry estimates of the project's likely cost range as high as \$500

million to as low as \$300 million.

Syncrude is owned 30 percent

each by Atlantic Richfield, Cities

Service and Imperial Oil Ltd., a

50 percent owned affiliate of

Standard Oil of New Jersey. The

remaining 10 percent is held by

Gulf Oil Canada, 90 percent owned

by Gulf Oil.

The new project will be nearly

three times the size of the 45,000-

barrel-a-day facility which Great

Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. has been

operating for three years in the

area. The project involved

an initial investment of \$25 million,

but has rolled up more than

\$80 million of operating deficits

to date. Sun Oil Canada, 95 percent

owner of Great Canadian, said

the operation was close to the

break-even point at the end of

last year.

Only One Larger

The only synthetic oil project in the world larger than Syncrude's new venture is the Soviet Union's complex of shale oil facilities in Estonia.

The Athabasca tar sands are near Fort McMurray, about 250 miles north of Edmonton. Theoretically they hold the equivalent of 626 billion barrels of synthetic

oil.

For the first time in their four-year-old discussions on Siberian development, Moscow has invited Tokyo to send a survey mission to the rich Tyumen oil fields. The Japanese have insisted on conducting a detailed survey of Tyumen oil operations as a precondition for helping to finance a proposed 4,400-mile trans-Siberian oil pipeline.

Tokyo, in turn, has fulfilled a basic Soviet precondition for the pipeline project by including high-level government representatives in the Japanese delegation to a four-day meeting of the Japan-Soviet Economic Committee that ended today.

Moscow is seeking \$1 billion in

Japanese credits, and plans to make repayment in 25 to 40 million tons of low-sulfur, pollution-free oil annually over a 20-year period starting in 1978. Soviet officials want the Japanese government to underwrite low-interest credit terms, but have been unable to involve the government directly in the project until this week.

Japan has not only been re-

luctant to make a formal govern-

ment commitment on low-interest

credit but has also been wary of

the Chinese reaction. The pipe-

line would run relatively near to

the Sino-Soviet border, in areas

disputed by Peking en route to

its terminal point at the port of

Nakhodka on the Japan Sea. It

would be the longest petroleum

pipeline in the world.

Informed sources said that the

Japanese are planning to send a

survey mission to the Tyumen

site in May. It is likely to in-

clude government experts and

may go to Moscow for a new

round of negotiations after com-

pleting its work in Siberia.

A communiqué issued at the

conclusion of the talks today said

only that both sides agreed to

"study" the pipeline plan and

other pending credit agreements

linked to Siberian coal and

natural gas development. But

New York Stock Exchange Trading

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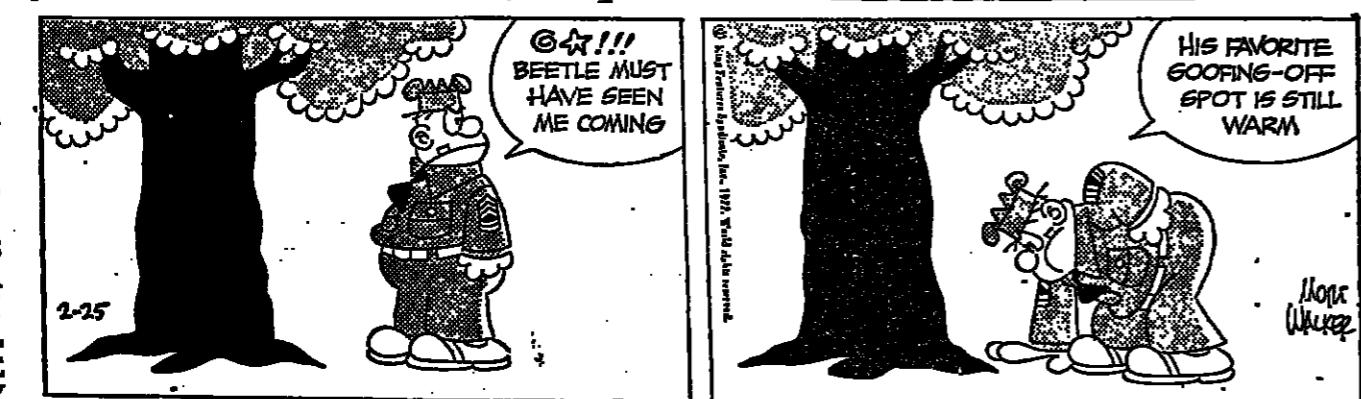
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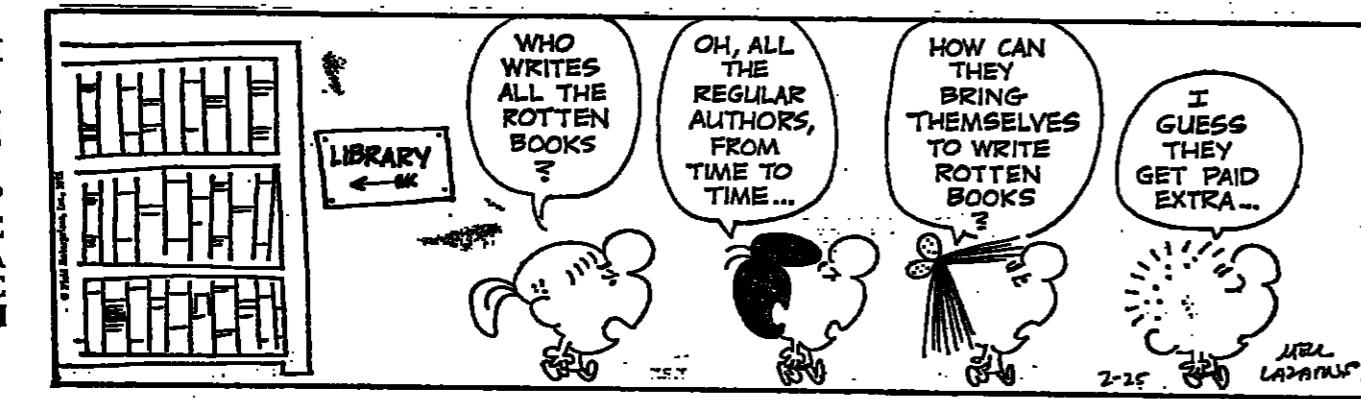
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BOOKS

CALCUTTA

By Geoffrey Moorhouse. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 376 Pages. \$5.95.

Reviewed by Thomas Lask

GEOFFREY MOORHOUSE, an English journalist known for his earlier study of 20th-century monasticism, "Against All Reason," has in this "full-length profile" of Calcutta brought East and West together. His Calcutta remains a very Eastern, or at least an Indian, city, but with so many parallels to any large urban center as to make the dweller of one, New York, say, flinch a little in apprehension. It would not take overly much, judging from the experience of Calcutta, for a city, strained in every direction, to cave in at the center or for an unhappy combination of economic hardship, revolutionary rhetoric and an explosive incident to loose a wave of resentment and violence that will make past American riots seem like a Maypole roundelay. This is not to predict imminent disaster. There are powerful differences between Calcutta and New York or Chicago. But reading Mr. Moorhouse's book and keeping such incidents as the Montreal policemen's strike in mind make us see that it can happen here. We see it especially in the way we shirk off social crimes such as the scandal surrounding the municipal building loan agencies or Medicaid. It is these that help induce that cynical despair that brings down the house. For "Calcutta" shows that greater than the deficiencies of the city is the failure of individual responsibility. The worst part about the indifference of those who should be responsible is that it sweeps away the hopes of those too poor to hold on to anything else.

Calcutta is a city where, in the words of Oliver Goldsmith, wealth accumulates and men decay. As is true of so many other places over the globe, extreme wealth and extreme poverty exist side by side. But the extremes in Calcutta are so shocking that one reads these pages in disbelief. It is easier to forgive unfreeing wealth than to accustom oneself to the limitless poverty. The crowding of so many humans together (Calcutta is four times as dense as New York), the absence of sanitary standards, the always threatening epidemics, the use of too many open privies and drains, the danger of polluted drinking water, the hunger and malnutrition, the absence of adequate medical services make for a combination beyond the imagination of someone who hasn't been there to grasp. It is sometimes even hard to die decently. One of the more sickening descriptions in a book that has its share of repellent incidents tells how some families too poor to provide burial for their dead simply slide them into the river. Days later the bleached bodies wash ashore to become food for dogs.

"Calcutta" is not likely to be welcomed by the city's Chamber of Commerce or drum up a big tourist trade. But it is so effective and tactile in conveying the feel of the place that a visit may—almost—be necessary. As has been remarked by others, inculcating this spirit may be England's most important legacy to the Indians.

The author is canny also in capturing the physical aspects of the city, its streets, parks, monuments and buildings and especially its architecture. Victorian reproductions is a tropical land. The buildings express better than all else the thinking of the official Englishman who wanted to brush away all that was native and to set up a little England halfway around the globe. He offers, too, a quick survey of Calcutta's commercial activities, its potentialities and its strengths, which are considerable. The city's recent history has been feverish. It has consisted of a series of ruling Communist coalitions that appear to be encouraging violence and lawlessness on the ground that if the government can be brought down entirely, one of the Chinese-oriented Communist parties would take over.

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Mr. Lask is a New York Times book critic.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

Aggressive bidding and well-judged play were needed to land a slam on the diagramed deal. West opened the bidding with one spade, and North had to choose between a takeout double and a cue-bid of two spades.

His choice was the double, partly because partnership methods reserve the cue-bid for purposes other than to show great strength.

With a five-card holding headed by the queen, South naturally responded two clubs, and whether or not West showed diamonds at this point, North had a problem. The routine course was a cue-bid of two spades, showing great power and asking South, to further describe his hand.

However, there was a good case for an immediate jump to six clubs. North could reckon that a slam would be a reasonable proposition if South held a five-card club suit, or even four including the queen, so he decided to go straight to slam.

In six clubs South had a prob-

lem when West led a high spade and then shifted to his singleton trump, which South won with the ten in his hand. There were several possible plays.

South's main chance, however, is a four-heart heart division. He could, for example, ruff spades twice, using a trump to re-enter his hand for the second spade lead, then cash the heart ace in dummy and ruff a low heart with a normal heart division. This would produce 12 tricks.

But he can do slightly better.

He should cash the top hearts

immediately, and if they break

four-three he does not need to

establish the fifth heart. He can

simply cross-ruff to make 12

tricks.

The immediate heart play has no disadvantages, and one advantage over ruffing the second round of hearts—it guards against the actual distribution. West cannot follow to the third heart, but he cannot ruff, so South simply cross-ruffs.

Notice that if West had shifted to a heart instead of a club, South would have had to play exactly one round of trumps himself and then continue with heart winners.

SOUTH:
♦ Q 8
♦ J 8
♦ Q 5
♦ Q 10 8 7 6

WEST (D): ♠ 9
♦ J 8
♦ K 8 4 3
♦ 5

EAST: ♠ 7 6
♦ 10 7 4 3
♦ 10 9 6
♦ 4 3 2

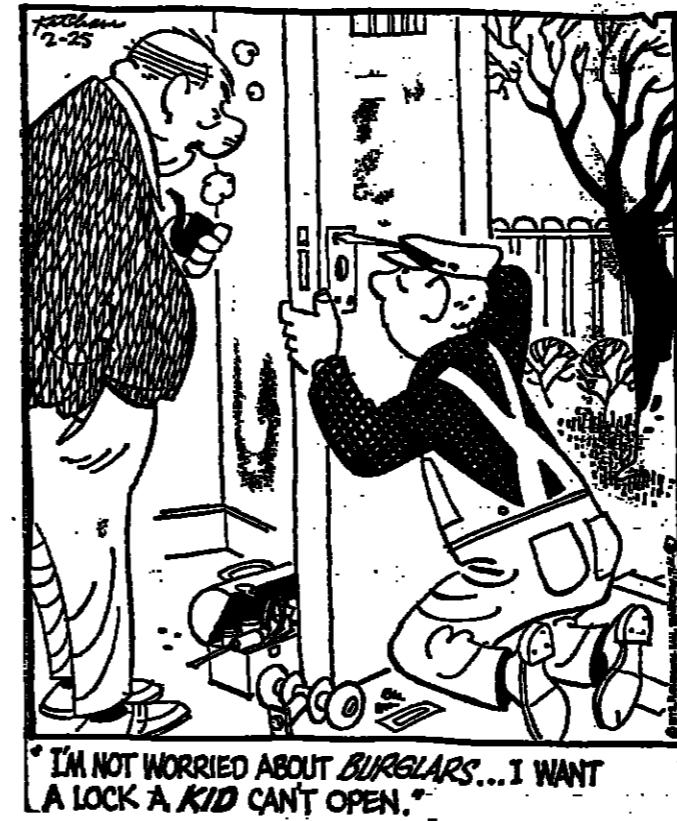
NORTH:
♦ A
♦ K Q 9 8 6
♦ A 7 2
♦ A K J 9

SOUTH:
♦ Q 8 4 3 2
♦ 8
♦ Q 5
♦ Q 10 8 7 6

North and South were vulnerable. The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dbl. Pass 2 ♠
Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass

West led the spade king.

DENNIS THE MENACE



JUMBLE

—that scrambled word game

By HENRY ARNOLD and BOB LEE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ATAGE

EEING

YONDAB

MOCNOM

Print the SURPRISE ANSWER here

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

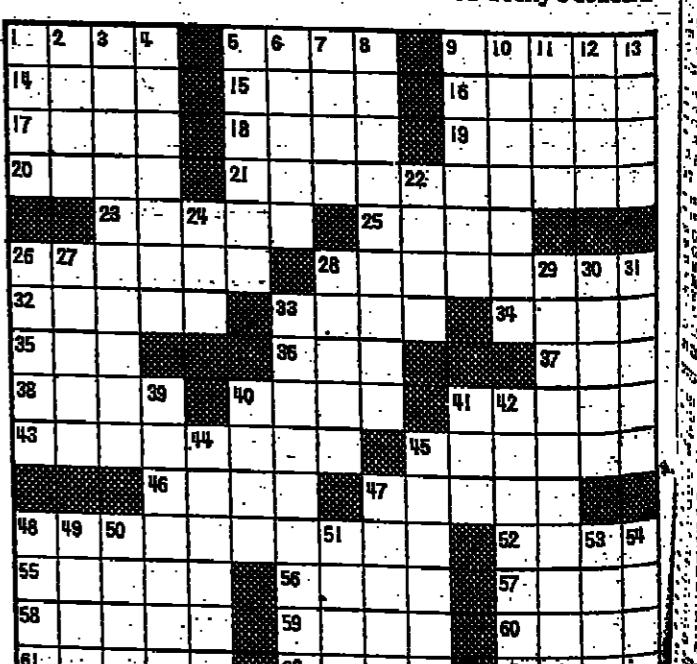
Yesterday's Jumble: ADAPT SLANT COUPLE ROSARY

Answer: How to get good looks—STAR

CROSSWORD

By Will Weng

ACROSS	46	Shelter	10	Dangerous fish
1	7	Tarkenton of football	11	Astronomer-poet
2	8	Hamburg's river	12	Caper
3	9	Footless animals	13	Dither
4	10	Singer Cantrell	14	Unshorn sheep
5	11	Privation	15	Sportscaster
6	12	The sky, to gamblers	16	Meredith
7	13	It isn't isn't	17	Vagabond
8	14	Surrealist painter	18	Term in hi-fi
9	15	19	20	Of a Great Lakes period
10	16	21	22	First wife of Woodrow Wilson
11	17	23	24	Slightest
12	18	25	26	Native of Riga
13	19	27	28	Mrs. Madison et al.
14	20	29	30	Fools
15	21	31	32	Table item
16	22	33	34	Comparative suffix
17	23	35	36	Maiden name of second Mrs. Benjamin Harrison
18	24	37	38	Skate genus
19	25	39	40	3 W. H. Harrison's wife
20	26	41	42	4 Poplar song
21	27	43	44	King
22	28	45	45	Make beloved
23	29	46	46	6 Preliminary clues
24	30	47	47	7 Mythical British King
25	31	48	48	8 Actor John King
26	32	49	49	50 Snow field
27	33	51	50	51 Prefix for poten-
28	34	52	51	52 or bus
29	35	53	52	53 That Lat. et al.
30	36	54	53	54 Proxy's concern



Observer

Chop Chop, John

By Russell Baker

WASHINGTON.—After the country had seen President Nixon eating dinner with chopsticks in Peking the other night, John Mitchell, formerly the attorney general, now Secretary for Re-election, placed a long-distance telephone call. The President lifted the phone. The conversation went as follows:

"Hello, this is the President speaking."

"Mr. President, John Mitchell here."

"Chun Mit Baker Chow? Do I know you, Chun? You're not one of my interpreters by any chance?"

"Not Chun, Mr. President."

"You will have to be patient with me, Chun. I'm still having some trouble with your Chinese names. Are you on chairman Mao's staff?"

"It's John, Mr. President . . . John Mitchell!"

"Martha's husband?"

"Yes, Mr. President."

"Oh, well, John, I'm always glad to talk about my re-election, of course, but I couldn't wait until I get back? I'm right in the middle of a Mah-Jongg lesson now. You never know, of course, but I want to be prepared in case Chairman Mao asks me if I'd like a little game of Mah-Jongg when we get together down in Hangchow. Hard work at preparation pays off, John. Take chopsticks. They laughed the other night when I sat down at the chopsticks, but you should have seen their faces when . . ."

"That's what I wanted to talk about, Mr. President."

"Chopsticks?"

"Could you see your way clear to forgetting the chopsticks from here on in and going back to the old American knife and fork, Mr. President?"

"I don't understand, John. Pat and I spent a lot of time mastering those chopsticks. A lot of time. John, just as I am spending a lot of time right now mastering Mah-Jongg. Hard work has always been my way, John, as you know, from the days when I was a poor but honest law student

at Duke burning the midnight oil and . . ."

"That's wonderful, Mr. President, but I wonder if we shouldn't also ask ourselves a question. Would George Wallace use chopsticks? And if he did, would he still be able to carry Alabama and Mississippi?"

"Between us, John, I think the answer to both questions is negative, but I cannot spend my entire presidency trying to carry Alabama and Mississippi."

"Listen, John, it's not easy to use chopsticks. Are you aware of that? It takes practice and hard work. And when you master it, John, it makes you feel like a better American because you have demonstrated your faith in the work ethic."

"Mr. President, I'm not saying anything against the work ethic. All I'm saying is . . ."

"Do you know what a feeling of satisfaction it can give you, John, to be able to show the whole world that you can eat shark's fin with chopsticks?"

"I can't get you to go easy on the chopsticks, then?"

"Could I persuade you, if Chairman Mao asks you to play Mah-Jongg, to come right back at him and say, 'How about a little game of poker, Mr. Chairman?'"

"John, will you leave the statesmanship to me?"

"Could I put out a rumor, Mr. President, to the effect that you will never appoint a Supreme Court justice who uses chopsticks?"

"John, why don't you relax? Take a week off and unwind a little. Go down to Mississippi and lie in a swamp. Suck up some grits. And while you're down there, John, start thinking of the next surprise we can pull on the Democrats."

"I've got an idea on that, Mr. President. It's a whole new approach to the busing issue. First off, we legalize slavery. Then . . ."

"John," called a woman's voice at the Washington end of the line, "are you going to gab all night? Hang up and let me use the phone."

"Ciao, Mr. President," Mitchell said.

"Pung, John," said the President and went back to his Mah-Jongg tiles.

"That's what I wanted to talk about, Mr. President."

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